



### **OFFICIAL REMARKS**

**James R. Kaskie**  
***President & CEO of Kaleida Health &***  
***the Western New York Healthcare System***  
**6/30 Press Conference with**  
**NYSDOH Commissioner Dr. Richard Daines**

Thank you Robert. And thank you Commissioner Daines and the DOH staff for your outstanding leadership. Before I begin, I first want to say welcome and thank you to all of the physicians here today and across Kaleida Health, ECMC and our community. Both academic and private practice physicians. We have such outstanding partnerships and quality of care because of you.

My name is Jim Kaskie and I am honored to serve as both President & CEO of Kaleida Health and NewCo. Today is a day for celebration. But it also about the reform agenda and implementing change here in WNY. Which is never easy.

As I have said in the past, we need to work together to build a stronger and more vibrant integrated health system. And we need to do that while addressing a full spectrum of community needs and challenges. Western New York unfortunately has such high incidences of vascular disease, MS, etc.

To do that, we must take our competitive energies and convert them to a collaborative focus on building something better ... something greater ... something new. It is about taking what we have today, which is very good, and making it even better. It's about building Centers of Excellence around key service lines. Like the stroke and cardiac programs at Gates Hospital or the trauma program at ECMC.

Robert was right when he mentioned the Jacobs gift and the importance of Kaleida Health's Global Vascular Institute here on the medical campus. That is a perfect example of a physician-led strategy that was designed to take what we have – which is wonderful people and programs – and make it better.

We are beginning the journey to achieve the vision that NewCo set last fall. It's about creating a robust and integrated health care delivery system. We will do that with our physicians, nurses and employees guiding the way. They will all have an essential role in the development of our new health care delivery system.

And we will do it for one simple reason – to improve the quality of care for our patients.

The challenges ahead are numerous. And it will be a lot of hard work. But Western New Yorkers need and deserve a world class health system. We are committed to achieving that dream and vision. Thank you.